to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. According to information sent by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, a total compensation of approximately Rs. 996 crore has been disbursed upto 31.12.1998 after adjudicating 7,30,901 claims. In addition, a total outlay of Rs. 258 crores was approved for various rehabilitation schemes under the Action Plan prepared for Bhopal Gas Victims. This expenditure is to be shared between Central Govearnment and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that a sum of Rs. 202.18 crore has been spent as on 31.12.98 on these schemes. Out of this amount, Central Government has released approximately Rs. 166 crore.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Flouting of Pollution Norms by Mine Owners

1104. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mine owners are flouting the pollution norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests causing lot of pollution; and

(b) what is the number of mine owners who have been penalized during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The mine owners are required to obtain environmental clearances from the Government before starting any mining project. Environmental clearances are issued by the Government specifying certain conditions/standards to safeguard the environment from mining activities.

The approved projects are monitored for compliance of specified conditions/standards through six Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. In case of non-compliance/unsatisfactory compliance of stipulated conditions/standards, Government takes appropriate action against project proponents. Out of 294 mining projects approved by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, unsatisfactory compliance was reported in 33 projects as on 30.6.1998 and project proponents have been asked to take suitable mitigative measures for compliance of stipulated conditions. So far, no project proponent has been penalized.

Creation of Bio-Diversity Zone in AP

1105. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create Bio-Diversity Zone in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have surveyed potential sites along the Godavari and Krishna Valley in the State;

(c) if so, when were these surveys conducted; and

(d) what steps are proposed to actively develop Bio-Diversity Zone in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have been undertaking floristic and faunistic surveys in Andhra Pradesh along with some universities. The ZSI has undertaken 28 surveys covering 15 districts during 1995-99. The BSI has undertaken surveys in 12 districts during the last three decades. The reports of these surveys have been published in the form of district Floras/Faunas and research papers.